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ARTICLE IV.

NOTICE OF SOME NEW AND RARE SPECIES OF SCINCIDÆ IN THE COLLECTION OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA.

BY EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

[Read, June 20, 1856.]

The family of Scincidæ or Lepido Saurians of Duméril and Bibron occupy a position in their arrangement intermediate between the Chalcidians, including the genera *Zonurus*, *Gerrhosaurus*, *Gerrhonotus*, *Pseudopus*, *Ophisaurus*, *Pantodactylus*, *Ecpleopus*, *Chamæsauros*, *Heterodactylus*, *Chalcis*, *Chirotæ*, *Amphisbæna*, *Lepidosternon*, and the Ophidiæans, or serpents, to which they pass as observed by them through the genera *Anguis*, and *Acontias*, which most nearly resembles the latter.

The following are the characteristics of the family as laid down by Dum. and Bibron, vol. v., p. 513 of their *Erpétologie générale*.

1st. Head covered above with horny slender angular plates, united in a regular manner.

2nd. Neck of same form and thickness as the chest.

3rd. The rest of the trunk and members furnished on all sides with imbricated scales, having several margins, for the most part broad, and with the free edge slightly rounded, disposed in quincunx; back rounded, without crests, or erect spines; belly cylindrical, without a lateral groove.

4th. Tongue free, flattened, without a sheath, slightly notched in front, its surface covered in whole or in part with papillæ; most usually all in the form of scales; it occasionally happens that some are squamiform, and others filiform.

These characters readily distinguish the Scincks from the Lacertians proper, which have for the most part quadrangular scales upon the abdomen, placed in longitudinal rows, differing from those upon the rest of the body, and of the rest of the other Saurians.

The family of Scincidæ is divided by Duméril and Bibron into three sub-families,—viz. 1st. Scincidæ Sauroptthalmidæ, having eyes resembling those of the greater part of the lizards, provided with two moveable eyelids closing the eye completely. 2nd, Scincidæ Ophiopthalmidæ, the eyes in which have only rudiments of lids, being uncovered, as in the serpents; the lids sometimes however forming a slight fold at the upper part of the orbit; 3rd, Typhlopthalmidæ, in which the eyes are covered by the skin, as in Typhlops and Amphisbœna. These sub-families are divided into thirty-one genera.

The first sub-family, or the Sauroptthalmidæ, is arranged in two groups, the first having extremities, with a variable number of fingers and toes, the second without extremities.

Of the species belonging to the first, some have four, others but two extremities. There are eight genera to the first division. The tetrapod genera have either five toes to each extremity or less than five. The genera which have four toes in front, and posteriorly, are the Tetradactyles, but in *Heteropus* there are five behind, and in *Champsodactylus* there are, as in the Crocodiles, four in front and five behind. In *Nessia*, *Hemiurgis* and *Seps* there are but three in front and three posteriorly. Four other genera have less than three, thus in *Chelomeles*, there are two in front, and two behind, but in *Brachymeles*, the posterior extremities have but one finger only. In *Brachystopus* there is but one in front, and two behind, and in *Evesia* there is but one in front and one posteriorly.

Of the Sauroptthalmidæ, which have only posterior extremities, *Scelotes* has but two toes; but *Prepedites*, and *Ophiodes* have no toes whatever. Lastly, in the great division of Scincoids with two moveable eyelids and without members, there are three genera, which were formerly ranked with the serpents, viz. *Acontias*, *Anguis* and *Ophiomorus*, in the second of which the nostril opens in a single plate, and in the last between two; the first being distinguished by having a large plate, enclosing like a case or tube, the whole of the muzzle. None of the Sauroptthalmidæ have pores under the thighs, or upon the anterior margin of the cloaca; the toes are smooth below and without lateral denticulations, except in *Scincus officinalis*, the only species of *Scincus*, and the only instance which presents them among all the Scincidæ. The second sub-family, or that of the Ophiopthalmidæ, are divided like the first into two groups according to the number of extremities. These genera have four, and others only two behind. In the tetrapod species, *Lerista* has two fingers, to the anterior extremities, three to the posterior; *Ablepharus* has five fingers, and five toes, and *Gymnophthalmus* but four of the former, and five of the latter. The Scincoid Ophiopthalmidæ which have only two posterior feet are divided into two genera, the 1st *Hysteropus*, has the extremities simple, or not divided into toes, but flattened, and ramiform. In the second genus, or *Liasis*, these extremities are merely pointed filaments. The Typhlopthalmidæ include but two genera. 1st, *Typhlinus*, which

has no feet at all, and *Dibamus* which presents two short and flat appendices not divided into toes corresponding to the posterior extremities.

Geographical Distribution. "The Scincks are distributed upon almost the whole surface of the globe, in cold as well as in the warmest climates. More species are found in Oceania and New Holland than elsewhere, but the other families of Saurians are much less numerous there than in other parts of the world. There is no genus of Scincidæ peculiar to Europe. The genera *Scincus*, *Sphenops*, *Amphiglossus*, *Liolepisma*, *Brachystopus*, *Scelotes*, *Acontias*, *Typhlinus* are peculiar to Africa, and *Tropidophorus*, *Champsodactylus*, *Brachymeles* to Asia. *Diploglossus*, *Ophiodes*, *Gymnophthalmus* are exclusively American, and *Tropidolepisma*, *Cyclodus*, *Trachysaurus*, *Heteropus*, *Tetradactylus*, *Hemiergis*, *Chelomeles*, *Nessia*, *Evesia*, *Prepedites*, *Hysteropus*, *Liasis*, *Lerista*, and *Dibamus*, belong exclusively to Polynesia. *Euprepis* is stated by Duméril and Bibron to be common to Africa, Asia, America and Australia, and *Eumeces* to Asia, America, Australia, Polynesia; *Plestiodon* to Africa, Asia and America, *Lygosoma* to Asia, America, and Polynesia, *Seps*, and *Anguis* to Europe and Africa, and *Ablepharus*, to Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, America and Polynesia." (See Duméril and Bibron, *Erpétologie générale*, vol. v., pp. 545, 546, 547.) The entire number of species of Scincoid, or Lepidosaurian Lizards, is 100. Of these we have at present in the Academy of Natural Sciences but forty species, or one hundred and thirty-two individuals belonging to fifteen genera, being not quite one-half of the whole number; but we hope, through the zeal of our members and exchanges abroad, that ere long the number will be greatly increased, if not be made complete.

The Scincoid reptiles described in the following paper belong to the sub-genera *Plestiodon*, *Eumeces*, *Euprepis*, and *Ablepharus*. The first and third are provided with pterygoid teeth, the nostrils in all, opening in a single plate, which is not the case either in *Scincus*, or *Gongylus*, in the former between two, viz. the nasal, and the anterior superno-nasal, in the latter between the nasal and the rostral. *Plestiodon*, *Eumeces* and *Euprepis* have supero-nasals; *Ablepharus* is without them, which is also the case in other genera, as *Tropidolepisma*, *Trachysaurus*, and *Cyclodus*.

SUB. GEN. EUMECES WIEGMANN.

Char. "Nostrils opening in a single plate, the nasal, near its posterior border; two superno-nasals; palate without teeth, with a triangular notch, not deep, situated posteriorly; scales smooth, D. & B., 12 sp.

Eumeces quadrilineatus. Hallowell. *Proceed. A. N. S.*, vol. vii. p. 95, two specimens, one adult, and one young from Astoria, Columbia river, presented by Dr. Townsend. They

differ from *E. Spixii* in the greater breadth of the scales, there being but twenty-four rows, and the broader white lateral band on each side occupying the half of each of the two adjoining rows of scales.

SUB-GEN. EUPREPIS WAGLER.

Char. Nostrils in the posterior border of the nasal plate; two superno-nasals; palate with a triangular notch, more or less deep; pterygoid teeth; scales carinated.

Euprepis striata,* nob. Syn. *Euprepis striata*. Proceed. A. N. S., vol. vii. p. 98.

Char. Lower eyelid scaly; colour blackish above, tinged with brown; scales upon back and tail, white spotted; back presenting alternate lines of black and white spots; body robust, 33 rows of scales, tricarinate upon back and sides.

Description. Nostrils in the posterior part of nasal plate, which is large; superno-nasals large, contiguous, much broader in front; inter-nasal much broader than long, its inferior and lateral margin in contact with the anterior frenal; two fronto-nasals; a frontal, long, much broader anteriorly, where it presents three fronts, in contact with the inter-nasal and fronto-nasals; two fronto-parietals much larger than the fronto-nasals; an inter-parietal; two large parietals; no occipitals, or scales larger than the rest behind the parietals; a rather large freno-nasal; two frenals, the anterior, more narrow and higher than the posterior; two freno-orbital, the first much larger than the latter, and more or less quadrilateral in shape; there are seven supra-labials; the fourth or fifth, as the case may be, is larger than the rest, and oblong quadrilateral; four large supra-ciliary scales; auricular openings circular, with three small scales in front; the lower eyelids covered with scales; tongue narrow in front, not notched anteriorly, broad behind, where it presents a deep notch; covered with scales; smaller in front, larger behind; palate notched posteriorly, not furrowed; no pterygoid or palatine teeth; teeth notched longitudinally; 44 in the upper jaw in the specimen examined, more or less quadrangular in shape, 32 in the lower; the anterior teeth in the lower jaw somewhat longer than those which immediately follow; body robust; 33 rows of scales; those upon the back and sides five carinated, the middle, and two lateral carinæ shorter and more narrow than the others; scales upon upper and lateral parts of tail and extremities carinated; posterior margin of scales upon back and sides tridentate, the denticulations corresponding to the posterior extremities of the three middle carinæ; scales of abdomen smooth, more or less rounded posteriorly, very finely striated, the two middle, the most distinct; third and fourth finger about equal length; second toe longer than the first; first toe much larger than the fifth; six or seven præanal scales;

* From the alternate lines of black and white along the back.

ground colour blackish above, with a tinge of brown; each scale upon upper and lateral parts of body and tail, spotted with white; the back presenting alternate lines of black, and white spots; the white colour predominant upon the sides; under surface white; sides of neck and throat presenting three or four dark-coloured irregular longitudinal lines.

Dimensions. Length of head, one inch, one line; greatest breadth, nine and a half; length of body to vent, three inches, ten lines; length of tail, four and a half inches; (Fr.) Total length, nine inches, five lines.

Habitat. Gaboon country. Specimen in the Museum of the Academy of Nat. Sciences, presented by Dr. Henry A. Ford. Nothing is known of its habits.

Gen. Remarks. The former description in the Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sciences, is wanting in precision, and contains several errors. The country it inhabits, I am informed, is about 900 miles south of Liberia.

EUPREPIS HARLANI. NOB.

Syn. Plestiodon Harlani. Proceed. A. N. S., vol. 11, p. 175.

Char. Lower eyelid scaly; colour, Indian yellow above; nine or ten transverse bands of dark brown upon the sides; the interspaces white mingled with yellow; thirty-one rows of scales, tricarinate upon back and sides; body stout.

Description. Nostrils large in posterior part of nasal plate; two superno-nasals, quite large, contiguous, much broader anteriorly; internasal large, broader than long, its inferior margin in contact with the first frenal; two fronto-nasals, one line apart; a long frontal, much broader anteriorly, presenting three plane surfaces, where it is in contact with the inter-nasal, and the two fronto-nasals; two fronto-parietals, about twice as large as the fronto-nasals; an inter-parietal, broad in the middle, quite narrow at the extremities; two large parietals, no occipitals; a row of larger scales than those upon the back behind the orbit and parietal plates; a freno-nasal more extended inferiorly than above; two frenals, the anterior higher and more extended than the posterior; two freno-orbitars; the first quadrangular, and larger than the second; five supra-ciliary scales; lower eyelid scaly; seven superior labials, the last the largest; auricular opening circular; body quite stout, more or less quadrangular in shape, with thirty-one rows of hexagonal scales, the posterior margin slightly denticulate, each scale upon back and sides, with three distinct carinæ, the lateral carinæ the largest; sometimes but rarely four carinæ may be observed; scales upon upper part of sides of tail distinctly tri-carinate; scales of abdomen and under part of tail smooth; seven præanal scales; tail round, cyclo-tetragonal at base, tapering gradually to a point, third and fourth fingers of about equal length; second toe, a little longer than the third; colour, Indian yellow above, the margin of the scale of a

darker colour; sides of neck and under jaw, dark brown with white spots upon the latter, arranged upon the inferior parts of it in short rows, looking like Mosaic. Nine or ten transverse bands of dark brown upon the sides, extending from the back to the abdomen, with intermediate spaces of white; sides of tail, brown, spotted with white; under surface of body, tail and extremities, straw-coloured, with longitudinal, zigzag lines of a darker shade, along the external border of the scales; the longitudinal lines are broader, and of a dark brown colour, upon the chin and throat; transverse bands of brown upon the under part of the lower jaw or each side anteriorly.

Dimensions. Length of head, fourteen lines; greatest breadth, nine lines; length of neck and body to vent, four inches; of tail four inches, eight lines. Total length, nine inches, ten lines.

Habitat. Liberia, West coast of Africa, one specimen in Mus. Acad. Nat. Sciences, presented by J. J. Haldeman, Esq.

EUPREPIS BLANDIGII. NOB.

Syn. Euprepis Blandigii, Hallowell, Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sciences, vol. ii. p. 58.

Char. Lower eyelid with a transparent disk. A broad, lateral black band, margined with two white vittæ; ground colour above olive, with four narrow black lines along the back; under parts silvery white; twenty-nine rows of scales, tri-carinate upon back and sides; body slender.

Description. The head is of moderate size, triangular, narrow, flattened above; the snout is somewhat prolonged and rounded in front; the plates upon the upper surface of the head, as well as those upon the sides, are perfectly smooth; the rostral plate is large, pentagonal, presenting an obtuse angle at its summit; the nasal plates are of moderate size, triangular, rounded posteriorly; the supero-nasals are narrow, oblong, in contact with each other; the inter-nasal plate is larger, presenting the form of a lozenge with its lateral angles truncated, the posterior angle acute, the anterior obtuse; it is in contact in front with the two supero-nasal plates, its anterior angle not reaching quite so far as the rostral; the fronto-nasals are of moderate size, sub-pentagonal; their lateral and inferior margins are in contact with the superior margin of the two frenal plates; the freno-nasal is small, triangular; the first of the frenal plates is oblong, quadrilateral; the second, which is much the larger of the two, is pentagonal; the frontal plate is also pentagonal, much broader in front, rounded posteriorly; the fronto-parietal are oblong pentagonal; their anterior margins, or those which embrace the posterior margins of the frontal, are the smallest; they are in contact, laterally, with the two supra-orbital, and posteriorly with the parietal and inter-parietal plates; the parietals are large, pentagonal; the inter-parie-

tal is smaller than either of the fronto-parietals, and terminates posteriorly in an obtuse point; there are four supra-orbital, and two freno-orbitars; the exterior margin of the supra-orbital is bordered by a row of seven small oblong quadrangular plates; immediately behind them is a small rhomboidal plate, the upper half of which is received between the posterior supra-orbital and the parietal; there is no occipital, but immediately behind the parietal are two oblong scales, much larger than the rest, presenting numerous striæ or elevated lines upon their posterior margin; the labial plates are seven in number; of these the fifth is most remarkable; it is regularly quadrilateral, oblong and much larger than either of the others, forming, of itself, one-half of the inferior margin of the orbit; the second, third, and fourth are rhomboidal; the first is irregularly quadrilateral, the sixth and seventh are pentagonal; lower eyelid with a transparent disk; the ear is of moderate size; its inferior margin is bordered with numerous small granules, and there are two or three small scales in front; the scales upon the body are hexagonal, more or less rounded posteriorly; 29 rows; those upon the back, sides and tail present three carinæ upon their surface, all of which are very distinct; about five lines from the posterior extremities, upon the back of the tail, is a row of scales broader than the rest, extending as far as its extremity, with five, six, and even seven carinæ: these broader scales are seen in all the specimens examined. There are eight scales immediately in front of the anus, of nearly equal size.

Colour. A broad black band, commencing behind the orbit and passing along the side of the body, as far as the posterior extremities, becomes lost upon the tail; below this is a white, narrow vitta, beginning near the anterior extremity of the orbit, and terminating near the posterior extremity of the body; upper margin of black lateral band margined with a more narrow and interrupted vitta, commencing at the occiput and extending the whole length of the trunk; four black lines, two on each side, along the back; ground colour above, olive or brown; under parts silvery white.

Dimensions. Length of head seven lines; greatest breadth posteriorly, $3\frac{1}{2}$; length of body, 1 inch 9 lines; length of tail 4 inches.

Habitat. Liberia, W. Africa. 5 specimens in Mus. Acad., N. S. Two from the Gaboon Country, presented by M. Duchailu; two adult and young from Liberia, by Dr. Blanding, and one, name and locality not mentioned.

Gen. Remarks. This species differs from any of those described by Duméril and Bibron.

EUPREPIS LONGICAUDATA. NOB.

Char. Lower eyelid scaly with a transparent disk; colour olive-green above; white, with a tinge of green below; posterior half of tail brown; a broad, black, lateral band

upon each side of the trunk; 30 rows of scales; bicarinate upon back and sides; body slender; tail very long.

Description. Nostrils in a single plate, near its posterior border; two slender supero-nasals apparently contiguous; a large inter-nasal extending laterally upon the sides of the head, where it joins the supero-nasal and the first frenal plate; two fronto-nasals, not in contact, more or less quadrangular, each passing likewise down upon the side of the head, where it joins the first and second frenal; a frontal much longer than broad, narrower behind, presenting an acute angle in front; two fronto-parietals, pentangular; one inter-parietal; more narrow posteriorly, and two parietals, larger than the fronto-parietals; no occipital; a small naso-frenal; two frenals, the posterior the larger, and more elongate; two freno-orbitars; seven superior labials; the fifth the largest, and more or less quadrilateral; a transparent disk to the inferior eyelid; body slender with thirty rows of scales; those upon the abdomen and sides rounded posteriorly, those of the back more distinctly hexagonal; scales upon the back distinctly bi-carinate; those upon the sides also bi-carinate, but the carinæ are very indistinct; scales upon the back smooth, as well as the inferior rows upon the sides; scales of the tail tri-carinate above; smooth, laterally and inferiorly; seven præanal scales; tail very long.

Colour. Olive green above, white with a tinge of green below, except upon posterior half of tail; which, as well as the upper part, is brown; a broad black lateral band on each side extending from behind the eye, passing over the ear, and terminating at the base of the tail; it occupies two rows of scales and the greater part of each of the adjoining rows.

Dimensions. Length of head, seven lines; greatest breadth six lines; length of body to vent, two inches, four lines; circumference, one inch, three and a half lines; length of tail, five inches, nine and a half lines, (a portion broken off,) total length, eight inches, four and a half lines.

Habitat. Siam. One specimen presented by Dr. Ruschenberger. Nothing especial is known of its habits.

EUPREPIS DISSIMILIS. NOB.

Char. Lower eyelid with a transparent disk; colour light olive above, with three lighter-coloured vittæ; two more narrow vittæ upon the scales; in some specimens, spaces between the vittæ, brown spotted; sides spotted with white; thirty-three rows of scales; lateral rows tri-carinate; intermediate ones smoothly bicarinate; body short.

Description. Nostrils in a single plate, near its posterior border; two supero-nasals, slender, contiguous, an inter-nasal, broader than long; two fronto-nasals in contact; a

frontal much more narrow posteriorly, separated from the inter-nasal by the fronto-nasals; two fronto-parietals, longer and more narrow than the fronto-nasals; a short inter-parietal, broad in front; two parietals considerably larger than either the fronto-nasals, or fronto-parietals; a small naso-frenal; two frenals, the posterior the larger, and two feno-orbital, the posterior the smaller of the two; seven superior labials, the fifth long and quadrilateral; a transparent disk in the lower eyelid; meatus auditorius furnished with three small scales in front; body moderately robust, with thirty-three rows of carinated scales, the seven lateral rows more or less *tricarinate*, the intermediate rows strongly *bi-carinate*: scales distinctly hexagonal; tail long and tapering, cyclo-tetragonal at base; scales of the tail upon sides, tri-carinate; bi-carinate above.

Colour. Light olive above, with three distinct lighter coloured vittæ, commencing behind the occiput, and extending along the back, and upon the tail; two narrow vittæ, one on each side, inferiorly; under parts white, without spots; in another specimen the back and sides are also spotted with brown, and there is a double row of white spots on each side.

Dimensions. Length of head, nine lines; greatest breadth, five; length of body to vent, two inches and a half: (Fr.) length of tail, four inches and eight lines; total length, seven inches and eleven lines; circumference, one inch and eleven lines.

Habitat. Bengal. Two specimens presented by Dr. Burroughs.

Gen. Remarks. This is a beautiful species of *Euprepis*; remarkable for the gracefulness of its form and colouring, and the mode of carination of its scales, which appears to be unique, none of the species described by Duméril and Bibron, presenting a similar arrangement. It resembles in colouring the *Tiliqua trivittata* of Mr. Gray. See Hardwicke's *Illustrations of Indian Zoology*, and *Zoological Journal*, Lond. vol. 3, p. 227, but the tail is represented as shorter, and no mention is made of the inferior lateral stripe: nothing is said of the carination of the scales.

EUPREPIS MICROCEPHALUS. NOB.

Syn. *Scincus ventralis*, Peale and Green.

Char. Lower eyelid scaly. Ash-coloured above, with five, longitudinal dark-coloured lines along the back; twenty-nine rows of scales; 7—8 carinated upon back and sides; body short.

Description. Nostrils in a single plate, near its posterior border; two supero-nasals, not contiguous; an inter-nasal, broader than long, its lateral and inferior margin in contact with the first frenal; two fronto-nasals; a frontal very large, broader anteriorly; a small interparietal; two parietals broad, and rather short; immediately behind them two broad

and narrow scales; six supra-labial plates, the fourth much larger than the rest, and quadrilateral, head short, trapezoidal; gape of mouth small; tongue slightly notched in front, papillous; auditory opening somewhat triangular in shape, with three small scales in front; body slender, surrounded with twenty-nine rows of scales; those upon back and sides, with from seven to eight carinae, the middle ones wider apart than the others; scales upon upper part of tail, 7-8 carinated, those beneath smooth, tail longer than head, neck and body, cyclo-tetragonal at base, tapering gradually to a point. Colour in spirits, uniform ash, with traces of four longitudinal narrow dark-coloured lines, extending the whole length of the trunk.

Dimensions.—Length of head $5\frac{1}{2}$ lines, greatest breadth, $3\frac{1}{2}$. Length of neck and body to vent, 1 inch $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines; length of tail, 2 inches, 9 lines.

Habitat.—Mexico. One specimen in Mus. Acad., N. S., presented by Mr. W. H. Keating.

Gen. Remarks.—This is a very singular tropical animal, its physiognomy and general appearance are quite peculiar. Its short head, thick neck, ramassé body, and rather long tail, give it an air of oddity, not usual among the Scincidæ.

EUPREPIS SURINAMENSIS.

Character.—Lower eyelid with a transparent disk; colour olive, above with brown spots, arranged sometimes into two longitudinal rows; a brown band on each side; 30 rows of scales, tricarinated upon back, smooth upon the sides; carinae not very distinct; body robust.

Description.—Nostrils in a single plate, near its posterior border; two superno-nasals contiguous, broader in front; a large and broad inter-nasal, its lateral and inferior margin in contact with the first frenal; two fronto-nasals not contiguous, about half a line apart; a frontal more extended in the longitudinal direction, broader in front; two fronto-parietals; a short interparietal; two parietals; no occipital; a small naso-frenal; two frenals, and two freno-orbital plates, the latter long and quadrilateral; seven superior labials, the sixth the largest, very distinctly oblong quadrilateral; four supraciliary plates; a transparent disk to the inferior eyelid; auditory opening simple, without scales; body rather long, surrounded with thirty rows of scales, more or less rounded posteriorly; scales tricarinate upon the back; carinae indistinct; seven præanal scales, the two middle the largest. *Colour* olive above, with brown spots, arranged sometimes into two longitudinal rows; a brown band on each side, from one and a half to two lines in breadth, commencing behind the eye, passing over the ear, and losing itself upon the tail; extremities spotted with brown above; under parts silvery white, immaculate.

Dimensions.—Length of head, nine lines; greatest breadth, six; length of body to vent two inches, ten lines; of tail, three inches, eight lines. Total length, seven inches, three lines. Circumference, one inch, ten lines.

General Remarks.—Of the thirteen species of Euprepes described by Duméril and Bibron, none are mentioned as found in S. America. They are represented as existing in Africa, Egypt, Abyssinia, the Seychelles, N. Guinea, and various parts of the E. Indies and Indian Archipelago. Of the thirteen species, but two (E. Sebæ and E. Ernesti) are without a transparent eyelid. The plates upon the head in the different species of Euprepes often vary considerably. Thus, in Harlani, the first frenal is more slender than in striata; the fronto-nasals are nearer together, the interparietal is longer. The internasal in Surinamensis is broader, the fronto-nasals more quadrate, the frontal longer, the interparietal broader, and more urceolate, the fronto-nasal wider apart than in dissimilis, in which the fronto-nasals are closely in contact, separating the frontal from the internasal by an interval of half a line. In Surinamensis the frontal and internasal are in contact; the supranasals in Harlani and striata are unusually broad anteriorly; and in Blandingii, the fifth superior labial is remarkable for its quadrangular form and great length. Differences of this kind are in all probability constant with few exceptions, and should always be carefully represented by the artist, as the surest mode of distinguishing the species, and of obviating, in a great degree, the necessity for long and circumstantial descriptions. We hope the time is not far distant, when there shall be sufficient encouragement for superior artists to an exclusive devotion to the drawing of objects of natural history, for there is no doubt talent in abundance, but the demand for it has not been fully manifested.

SUB. GEN. PLESTIODON. D. AND B.

Characters.—Nostrils opening in the middle, or nearly in the middle of the nasal plate; two supero-nasals; palate with a large median fissure, broader at its anterior extremity; pterygoid teeth; scales smooth.

PLESTIODON SINENSE? D. AND B.

Characters.—Colour, olive above, with four more or less interrupted narrow dark-coloured bands upon the back and tail; scales of back and tail edged with yellow; twenty-four rows of scales.

Description.—Head cruciform, slightly swollen at the temples; nostrils lateral, opening in a single plate, two supero-nasals, broad, contiguous, an internasal; quadrangular, posterior angle acute, enclosed by the fronto-nasals; fronto-nasals in contact; in one of the specimens the fronto-nasal and internasal are fused into one plate; a frontal, hexagonal, broader in front; two fronto-parietals; an interparietal; two parietals; no occipital; a freno-nasal; a large and broad frenal; two freno-orbital plates; seven superior labials;

auricular openings pyriform, the broadest end above; there are four small scales upon the anterior border; third and fourth fingers of equal length; body robust; scales hexagonal; twenty-four rows; tail long and tapering, robust, cyclo-tetragonal at base; posterior extremities much stouter than anterior; second toe much the longest, with fourteen distinct transverse scales beneath; palms of anterior and soles of posterior extremities tuberculated; six pre-anal scales, the two middle ones quite large. *Colour*.—Olive above, with four dark-coloured, and more or less interrupted bands upon the back and tail; the black spots constituting narrow bands, which are not very distinct, occupy only the posterior half of each scale; in some specimens they are much larger than in others; posterior part of scales upon sides marked with black; edges yellow. Pterygoid teeth.

Dimensions.—Length of head ten lines; greatest breadth six and a-half lines; length of neck and body to vent, three inches; (Fr.) of tail, four inches, five lines; total length, eight inches, three lines; circumference of body, two inches, two lines; of tail at base, one inch, seven lines; another specimen measured nine inches in length; and the circumference of the apparently older one was two inches, eight lines.

Habitat.—Ningpo, China. Five specimens in Mus. Acad. N. S., presented by B. H. M'Cartee, M. D.

General Remarks.—The animal above described is very probably the *Plestiodon Sinense*, (Duméril and Bibron,) from the neighbourhood of Canton, their description of the scales corresponding with it, being olive-coloured bordered with yellow; but they make no mention of the four dotted lines along the back; which, however, are shown in Gray's figure. (Hardwicke—Illustrations of Indian Zoology—*Tiliqua rubriventris*,) and they give one more row of scales, viz.;—twenty-five. We have a specimen with three white lines down the back, bordered with black, probably the young of the above, and which is, perhaps, identical with *Plestiodon pulchrum*, Dum. & Bib. An *Tiliqua trivittatus*? Gray.

We have carefully examined the *Herpetology* of Duméril and Bibron, the most complete and philosophical that has yet been published upon the Reptiles, and the *Catalogue* of the Reptiles of the British Museum, by Mr. Gray, and do not find any species of Scinks corresponding with those above described as new.

Among the Scincidæ in the collection of the Academy are fourteen specimens of *Ablepharus Peronii*, belonging to the group of Scincidæ Ophiophthalmidæ of Duméril and Bibron; the greater number presented by Dr. Townsend; the predominating colour in most of these specimens is brown, mingled with green, with the lateral rays bordered with black, as described by Duméril and Bibron. In some of the specimens, however, the predominating colour is brownish above, with two median rows of black spots. Duméril and Bibron observe that this species has a very wide range, being found, according to them, in New Holland, Tahiti, Java, the Isle of France, the Morea, and Peru.